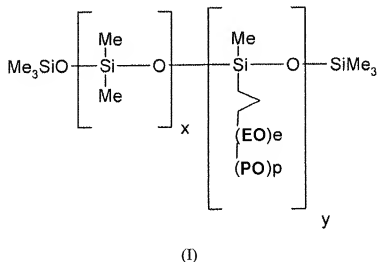


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add new claims 19-21 and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Coating composition, comprising:
 - an aqueous dispersion of film-forming polymer, and
 - a sufficient amount of a silicone polyether satisfying formula (I) below:



where

EO signifies -O-CH₂-CH₂- ,

PO signifies -O-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂- ,

where EO and PO have a terminal Group OR, where R represents a hydrogen atom, or a linear or branched alkyl radical having from 1 to 22 carbon atoms,

x is a number between 5 and 50,

y is a number between 3 and 10,

e is a number between 10 and 30,

p is a number between 0 and 10,

it being understood that:

x/y is less than 10,

e + p is less than 30,

e/p is greater than 1, and

x + y is less than 60, wherein the composition provides for a hydrophilic coating composition with a wetting angle of less than 40° on a hydrophobic support.

2. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the silicone polyether is chosen from the silicone polyethers of formula (I) and wherein:

x = 9.5, y = 3.5, e = 11.5 and p = 2.5, and R is a hydrogen atom; or

x = 14, y = 4, e = 17 and p = 1, and R is a hydrogen atom; or

x = 48, y = 6, e = 15 and p = 5, and R is a hydrogen atom.

3. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the aqueous dispersion of film-forming polymer comprises at least one water-insoluble polymer obtained by polymerization of monomers chosen from: —vinyl esters, alkyl acrylates and methacrylates having an alkyl group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, vinylaromatic monomers, wherein the monomers maybe copolymerized with one another or with other ethylenically unsaturated monomers copolymerizable therewith so as to form homopolymers, copolymers or terpolymers.

4. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 3 wherein the other ethylenically unsaturated monomers are selected from the group consisting of ethylene and other olefins, vinyl esters of branched or unbranched, saturated monocarboxylic acids having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, esters of unsaturated mono- or dicarboxylic acids having 3 to 6 carbon atoms with alkanols having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, vinylaromatic monomers, vinyl halides, diolefins, (meth)acrylic acid (meth)allyl esters, (meth)allyl esters of maleic acid mono- and diesters, fumaric acid mono- and diesters and itaconic acid mono- and diesters, alkene derivatives of acrylic and methacrylic acid amides and combinations thereof.

5. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 3 wherein the aqueous dispersion of film-forming polymer comprises at least one water-insoluble polymer obtained by polymerization of monomers chosen from alkyl acrylates and methacrylates in which the alkyl group contains from 1 to 10 carbon atoms.

6. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the sufficient amount of silicone polyether of formula (I) added to the aqueous dispersion of film-forming polymer is between 0.1 and 10% by weight of dry silicone polyether of formula (I) relative to the weight of dry film forming polymer.

7. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 6 wherein the sufficient amount of silicone polyether of formula (I) added to the aqueous dispersion of film-forming polymer is between 0.1 and 5% by weight of dry silicone polyether of formula (I) relative to the weight of dry film forming polymer.

8. (Previously Presented) A process for rendering a hydrophobic support hydrophilic comprising applying a sufficient amount of the coating composition of claim 1 to a surface of the hydrophobic support.

9. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 8 wherein the hydrophobic support has a contact angle measured by the wetting angle method of greater than 70°.

10. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 8 wherein the hydrophobic support is a material selected from the group consisting of glass, metals, rigid polypropylene, wood treated with a varnish, and a cement-based material pretreated with a hydrophobic adhesion primer.

11. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 10 wherein the hydrophobic adhesion primer is a composition of film-forming polymer as an aqueous dispersion or that is solvent-based.

12. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 10 wherein the adhesion primer is the aqueous dispersion of film-forming polymer used in the coating composition of claim 1.

13. (Previously Presented) A hydrophobic support having a surface which is coated at least in part with a film resulting from the drying of the composition of claim 1.

14-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein
x/y is less than or equal to 8,
e + p is less than or equal to 20,
e/p is greater than or equal to 4, and
x + y is less than 40.
17. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 3 wherein
the vinyl esters is vinyl acetate,
the alkyl acrylates and methacrylates are methyl acrylates, ethyl acrylates and methacrylates, n-butyl acrylates and methacrylates, and 2-ethylhexyl acrylates and methacrylates, and wherein
the vinylaromatic monomers is styrene.
18. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 4 wherein
the other olefin is isobutene,
the vinyl esters of branched or unbranched, saturated monocarboxylic acids are vinyl propionate, vinyl ~~Versate~~ esters of C₉-C₁₁ branched acids, vinyl pivalate, vinyl laurate,
the esters of unsaturated mono- or dicarboxylic acids having 3 to 6 carbon atoms with alkanols having 1 to 10 carbon atoms are methyl, ethyl, butyl or ethylhexyl maleates, or methyl, ethyl, butyl or ethylhexyl fumarates,
the vinylaromatic monomers are methylstyrenes or vinyltoluenes,
the vinyl halides are vinyl chloride or vinylidene chloride,
the diolefin is butadiene, and
the methacrylic acid amides is N-methylmaleimide.

Please add new claims 19-21 as follows:

19. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein the silicone polyether is chosen from the silicone polyethers of formula (I) and wherein:
x is from 9.5 to 48;
y is from 3.5 to 6;

e is from 11.5 to 15,
p is from 2.5 to 5.

20. (New) The process of claim 8, wherein the silicone polyether is chosen from the silicone polyethers of formula (I) and wherein:

x is from 9 to 48;
y is from 3.5 to 6;
e is from 11.5 to 25,
p is from 0.6 to 7, with $e+p$ less than 30.

21. (New) The hydrophobic support of claim 13, wherein the silicone polyether is chosen from the silicone polyethers of formula (I) and wherein:

x is from 9 to 48;
y is from 3.5 to 6;
e is from 11.5 to 25,
p is from 0.6 to 7, with $e+p$ less than 30.